

Virtual Tour NCO Museum

- Welcome to the NCO Museum virtual tour. The following slides highlight a few of the Museum's exhibits and provide brief narrative to the story of the NCO Corps.



American Revolution

- The NCO Museum's story begins with the birth of the U.S. Army in 1775. During the American Revolution NCOs were called upon to ensure discipline and order of the ranks.



War of 1812

- The War of 1812 led to further developing the NCO as a leader and trainer of men. The small numbers of troops in the Army required NCOs to take an active role in the soldiers care and maintenance.



Mexican-American War

- The expansion westward required the NCO to assume greater responsibility as a small unit leader. By 1847, the NCO had also acquired the chevron as part of his insignia.



Civil War

- During the early stages of the Civil War, NCOs held the Union army together as a fighting force until the Officer Corps could be rebuilt.



Buffalo Soldiers

- After the Civil War, many of the ethnic units were disbanded. However, African-Americans continued to be segregated into separate units until the Korean War.



1890's Barracks Life

- The barracks life of the 1890's provided a Spartan atmosphere with few of the finer points of life. Dime novels, however, often recalled the simpler days--before modern technology.



World War I

- World War I required NCOs to train over 4 million men, one million of which saw action in France. The platoon sergeant and fire-team leader were created to further assist in leadership and fire direction.



World War II

- During World War II, the Army restructured the squad; from an eight-man infantry squad lead by the corporal to a twelve-man infantry squad lead by a staff sergeant.



Korea

- During Korea the Sergeant First Class became the squad leader. One rank separated the Regimental Sergeant Major from the squad leader and few promotions existed for senior NCOs.



Vietnam

- Vietnam was a junior leaders war. The squad leader and the platoon sergeant had significant leadership roles in combat and day-to-day operations of the war.



Iraq and The War on Terrorism

- Major conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan demand that today's soldier to be combat-ready at all times. The Army's success requires a highly skilled and trained, professional NCO Corps.

